

**JAMES**

SAVED FOR GOOD WORKS



# AUTHORSHIP

- \* James, who identifies himself as "a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" ([Jam 1:1](#)).
- \* There are four men who bear this name in the New Testament:
- \* **James, son of Zebedee and brother of John** - A fisherman called by Christ ([Mt 4:17-22](#)) who later became an apostle ([Mt 10:2](#)). He was killed by Herod in 44 A.D. ([Ac 12:1-2](#)).
- \* **James, son of Alphaeus** - Another one of the apostles ([Mt 10:3](#); [Ac 1:12](#)), about whom very little is known.
- \* **James, father of Judas the apostle** - Even more obscure, one of the few references to him is [Lk 6:16](#).
- \* **James was one of several brothers of Christ** -
  - \* probably the oldest since he heads the list in [Mt 13:55](#).
  - \* At first he did not believe in Jesus and even challenged him and misunderstood his mission ([Jn 7:2-5](#)).
    1. He was one of the select individuals Christ appeared to after his resurrection (see [1Co 15:7](#)).
    2. Paul called him a "pillar" of the church ([Gal 2:9](#)).
    3. Paul, on his first post-conversion visit to Jerusalem, saw James ([Gal 1:19](#)).
    4. Paul did the same on his last visit ([Ac 21:18](#)).
    5. When Peter was rescued from prison, he told his friends to tell James ([Ac 12:17](#)).
    6. James was a leader in the important council of Jerusalem ([Ac 15:13](#)).
    7. Jude could identify himself simply as "a brother of James" ([Jude 1:1](#)), so well known was James. He was martyred c. a.d. 62.
- \* **CHAPTERS: 5 | VERSES: 108**



# FAITH VS. WORKS (JAMES 2:14-26)

- \* We believe that Scripture alone is the written revelation of God, that salvation is through faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone, and that we live for the glory of God alone.
- \* But if those are true confessions, then what does James mean when he says that “a person is justified by works and not by faith alone” (James 2:24)?
- \* James does not propose a different way of salvation, but because he would have them understand what ‘by faith alone’ really means.
- \* This book is not a contrast between faith and works. It is a contrast between true faith and false faith.
- \* Anyone can say they believe in God, even demons (James 2:19)!
- \* True faith is proved real because it results in good works. False faith is proved dead because it doesn’t show good works.
- \* Paul talks a lot about **pre-salvation works**. He makes it clear that salvation is never earned through works or good deeds (Eph. 2:8-9).
- \* James talks more about **post-salvation works**. He makes it clear that salvation always results in works and good deeds (James 2:18).
- \* **Faith = Salvation + Works.**
- \* **Faith + Works ≠ Salvation**
- \* Through his works, Christ has accomplished for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- \* We are saved by faith alone, but, once we’re saved, that faith doesn’t remain alone.



# FAITH VS. WORKS (JAMES 2:14-26)

- \* The epistle also puts to rest the idea that one can become a Christian and yet continue living in sin, exhibiting no fruit of righteousness.
- \* Such a "faith," James declares, is shared by the demons who "believe and tremble" ([James 2:19](#)).
- \* Yet such a "faith" cannot save because it is not verified by the works that always accompany true saving faith ([Ephesians 2:10](#)).
- \* Good works are not the cause of salvation, but they are the result of it.

Its familiarity with Jesus' teachings preserved in the Sermon on the Mount (

- \* James 2:5 with Mt 5:3
- \* James 3:10-12 with Mt 7:15-20
- \* James 3:18 with Mt 5:9
- \* James 5:2-3 with Mt 6:19-20
- \* James 5:12 with Mt 5:33-37



# OVERVIEW

## SALUTATION ([Jam 1:1](#))

- **TRUE RELIGION ENDURES TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS ([Jam 1:2-18](#))**
  - WITH JOY AND PATIENCE ([Jam 1:2-4](#))
  - WITH WISDOM FROM GOD ([Jam 1:5-8](#))
  - WITH A PROPER PERSPECTIVE ([Jam 1:9-11](#))
  - WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF TEMPTATION ([Jam 1:12-15](#))
  - WITH AN AWARENESS OF THE FATHER'S GOODNESS ([Jam 1:16-18](#))
- **TRUE RELIGION CONSISTS OF DOING, NOT JUST HEARING ([Jam 1:19-2:26](#))**
  - ONE SHOULD BE SWIFT TO HEAR ([Jam 1:19-20](#))
  - ONE SHOULD NOT BE HEARERS ONLY, BUT DOERS ([Jam 1:21-27](#))
  - ONE SHOULD NOT SHOW PERSONAL FAVORITISM ([Jam 2:1-13](#))
  - ONE SHOULD SHOW THEIR FAITH BY THEIR WORKS ([Jam 2:14-26](#))

- **TRUE RELIGION DISPLAYS WISDOM, NOT JUST SPEAKING ([Jam 3:1-18](#))**
  - THE DANGER OF THE TONGUE ([Jam 3:1-12](#))
  - THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAVENLY AND EARTHLY WISDOM ([Jam 3:13-18](#))
- **TRUE RELIGION BEFRIENDS GOD THROUGH HUMILITY ([Jam 4:1-17](#))**
  - HOW TO BE AN ENEMY OF GOD ([Jam 4:1-6](#))
  - HOW TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD ([Jam 4:7-17](#))
- **TRUE RELIGION BLESSED THROUGH PATIENCE, PRAYER AND LOVE ([Jam 5:1-20](#))**
  - THE CURSE OF RICH OPPRESSORS ([Jam 5:1-6](#))
  - THE BLESSING OF PATIENCE ([Jam 5:7-12](#))
  - THE BLESSING OF PRAYER ([Jam 5:13-18](#))
  - THE BLESSING OF LOVE FOR THE ERRING ([Jam 5:19-20](#))